

Message Text

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ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 ACDA-10 DODE-00 EB-07

NRC-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 ERDA-07 CIAE-00 COME-00 AID-05

IGA-02 L-03 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-04 /093 W

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R 201450Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9665

UNCLAS HELSINKI 348

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:MILI, FI

SUBJECT: LAWS GOVERNING ARMS EXPORTS

REF: STATE 28053

1. SECTION 10 OF LAW OF JAN.27, 1933, ON IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION, SALES AND POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION PROVIDES THAT EXPORTS OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION PERMITTED ONLY ON PERMISSION OF COUNCIL OF STATE.

2. DECREES 318 AND 319 OF 1938 CONTAIN EXTENSIVE LIST OF WEAPONS BANNED FROM EXPORT.

3. IN THE CASE OF CIVILIAN FIREARMS (FOR HUNTING, TARGET PRACTICES, ETC.), APPLICATION FOR EXPORT PERMISSION IS MADE TO THE MINISTRY OF INTEIOR WHICH, AFTER EXAMINATION OF THE DOCUMENT AND COUNTRY OF DESTINATION INVOLVED, PRESENTS THE CASE TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE FOR ITS DECISION AND PERMISSION. IF MILITARY WEAPONS ARE INVOLVED, THE RESPECTIVE PETITION FOR EXPORT PERMIT MUST BE MADE TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY PRESENTS THE CASE TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE FOR ITS DECISION AND PERMISSION. SHOULD THE PERMIT BE REQUESTED FOR ARMS EXPORTS TO THE SO-CALLED "CRISIS AREAS," A STATEMENT ON THE ISSUE IS REQUESTED FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH MAKES A DEFINITIVE RECOMMENDATION

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(EITHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE). THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

OR MINISTRY OF DEFENSE THEN FORWARDS THIS RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE THAT THE REQUESTED PERMIT BE GRANTED OR DENIED. IF STATE OF WAR PREVAILS IN THE COUNTRY OF DESTINATION, NO PERMIT FOR FIREARMS EXPORTS IS GRANTED.

4. FINNISH LAW DOES NOT HAVE PROVISION FOR EXPORTS OF FIREARMS BY PRIVATE PERSONS, LATTER MAY TAKE ABROAD THEIR OWN PERSONAL WEAPONS ALONG WITH AMUNITION PROVIDED THAT SUCH PERSONS HAVE VALID LICNSES TO POSSESS THE WEAPONS.

5. IF THE COUNCIL OF STATE PERMITS THE EXPORT OF FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION, CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES SHALL SEE TO IT THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE EXPORT PERMIT ARE COMPLIED WITH BY THE EXPORTER. BOTH ACTUAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION ARE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE BOARD OF CUSTOMS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW, EXPORTS, MUNITIONS CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HELSIN00348
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760065-1110
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760231/aaaabaoj.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION MC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 28053
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAWS GOVERNING ARMS EXPORTS
TAGS: MILI, FI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006